

NO HO LA

THE MEGA ZINE

theatre

REVIEWS

The Root Beer Bandits *by Chelsea Brewer*

Billy the Kid ain't got nothin' on *The Root Beer Bandits*, now playing at the Falcon Theatre. Directed by **Joseph Leo Bwarie** with music by **Rachael Lawrence**, this little western show is the perfect way to entertain the little ones while teaching them an excellent lesson: You can be anything you want to be as long as you believe in yourself.

Polly Peppercorn (**Erin Matthews**) is a delivery girl for the Pony Express but has big dreams of becoming a songwriter. Upon delivering her last letter of the day to Sheriff Bailey (**Tom Hines**) of Sarsaparilla City, she befriends Sally Sue Tucker (**Fawnda McMahan**), the local dress shop owner who agrees to help her find the sheriff. But by the time they find him, the letter is too late to stop the arrival of the Root Beer Bandits, Copper Penny (**Susan Dohan**) and Zeké (**Britt Prentice**). They have come to the city to take every last drop of Root Beer and ain't no body gonna stop 'em. With about a dozen songs for kids to clap to, these

wacky characters kick up their heels and show you how to have a good ole time in the old west. The setting is complete with cacti,



left to right, Britt Prentice, Erin Matthews, Susan Dohan, Tom Hines & Fawnda McMahan in *The Root Beer Bandits* at the Falcon; Photo by Wesley Horton.

a jail, and even a saloon with swinging doors. There's marshmallow roasting during a campfire scene. And even some quick and easy lighting tricks to make a chase scene look like one of the authentic

black and white western movies.

Another great aspect that many directors tend to overlook is audience participation. This show's got it. The characters talk to the kids, ask them questions and joke around with them. And after the show, they come out to the lobby, costumes and all, ready to meet the kids. *The Root Beer Bandits* is a great show for just about any kid at any age. They'll love the music and characters and learn a great lesson in the end. So saddle up and get your little buckaroos ready; there's a ho'down in Burbank! *See ad.*